

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 6 as set forth below. In compliance with the Revised Amendment practice, changes in the amended claims are shown by underlining (for added matter) and strikethrough (for deleted matter). All the pending claims are reproduced below.

1. (previously amended) A ball check valve comprising:

a housing having walls defining a fluid inlet, a fluid outlet, and a chamber communicating with the inlet and with the outlet, the chamber including a fluid passageway;

a spherical hollow ball in said chamber having a diametric cross-sectional area larger than the area of the inlet, said spherical hollow ball being movable between a first, flow impeding position adjacent the inlet along a guide part to a second position spaced from the inlet and diverged from the fluid passageway to allow fluid to pass through the valve; and

a plurality of spherical shock absorbing members contained within said spherical hollow ball.

2. (original) The ball check valve of claim 1, wherein the spherical shock absorbing members stabilize the spherical hollow ball while in transition between the first, flow impeding position and the second position.

3. (original) The ball check valve of claim 1, wherein the plurality of spherical shock absorbing members are metallic.

4. (original) The ball check valve of claim 1, wherein said spherical hollow ball is a metallic sphere enclosed by a coat of rubber or synthetic resin.

5. (original) The ball check valve of claim 1, wherein the plurality of spherical shock absorbing members only partially fill said spherical hollow ball.

6. (currently amended) A spherical ball for use in ball check valves, said spherical ball defining a hollow cavity with a plurality of spherical shock absorbing members disposed therein, wherein the plurality of spherical shock absorbing members stabilize the spherical hollow ball during operation of the ball check valve as the spherical hollow ball moves between a first, flow impending position adjacent an inlet to the ball check valve along a guide part to a second position spaced from the inlet and diverged from a fluid passageway formed by a housing of the ball check valve to allow fluid to pass through the ball check valve.

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